WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of trainer aircraft

*106. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whethere it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of aircraft for imparting training to pilots;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is shortage of professional pilot instructors; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to remove these shortages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve the situation:—

(i) Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy has been established at Fursatganj in Uttar Pradesh for training of Commercial Pilots.

(ii) Flying Clubs have embarked upon a plan of training Pilot Instructors.

New Train Service between Hyderabad and Cochin

*107. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a new train service between Hyderabad and Cochin;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be introduced;

(c) whether Government propose to extend it to Cape Comorin (Kanya Kumari) to facilitate tourist flow; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what other steps Government propose to take to connect Hyderabad directly with Cape Comorin (Kanya Kumari) in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) It is proposed to introduce a new weekly train between Hyderabad and Cochin from April, 1987.

(c) and (d) Due to inadequate line capacity on the single line section between Ernakulam and Trivandrum, extension beyond Cochin is not feasible at present. Tourists can, however, travel to Kanyakumari by the existing services.

Derailment of Tirupati-Hyderabad Rayalseema Express

*108. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Statesman dated 11th February, 1987 wherein it has been stated that five coaches and the engine of the Tirupati-Hyderabad Rayalseema Express derailed between Nagarpalli and Lingambpalli on 10th February, 1987;

(b) if so, what is the cause of this accident;

(c) the estimated loss of life and property as a result thereof; and

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted and if so, the action taken by Government in regard thereto?